

SOCIAL SECURITY

he marries her because
he doesn't want to lose her.

as marriage cools the flames, he decides
he should take a mistress
so as not to be left emptyhanded
as the marriage inevitably ends.

he falls passionately in love with the mistress,
for a time,
and even the relationship at home improves.
but as the novelty of the illicit weakens,
he decides it may behoove him
to take on a second girlfriend, just in case
he has to break up with the first.

he finds a girl who excites him beyond
all expectation, so much so that the piquancy
somehow rubs off even on the relationships
with the wife and other mistress.

one day he realizes that the second mistress
has her flaws. he has not found
the one that's out there waiting for him.
it will be necessary to look further.
but in the meantime he knows better
than to burn his bridges ...

SHIT

this poem is entitled "shit."
it is entitled that
because ray zepeda and i decided
that a novel or, in lieu of that,
a poem, should be entitled "shit."
then, whenever someone said,
"i haven't read shit lately,"
he would be referring to our poem.

the only thing we can't understand
is why andy warhol didn't get to the title
ahead of us.

A CLOSET DRAMA IS NOT ONE IN WHICH

the hero kills his mother
and marries his father.